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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

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U. S. STANDARDS FOR BEETS WITH SHORT-TRIMMED TOPS

(Effective May 13, 1942)

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INTRODUCTION

U. S. Department of Agriculture

The tolerances for the standards are on a container basis. However, if the averages for the entire lot, based on sample inspection, are within the tolerances specified in the standards, the contents of individual containers in the lot may vary from the specified tolerances subject to the following limitations:

When the tolerance specified is 10 percent or more, not over one-tenth of the individual containers in the lot may contain more than one and one-half times the tolerance, except that at least one defective specimen shall be permitted in a container.

When the tolerance specified is less than 10 percent, not over one-tenth of the individual containers in any lot may contain more than double the tolerance specified, but no container may contain more than four times the tolerance for soft rot, except that at least one defective specimen shall be permitted in a container.

Percentages shall be calculated on a basis of weight.

GRADES

U. S. No. 1 shall consist of beets of similar varietal characteristics which are firm, fairly smooth, fairly well shaped, free from soft rot, and from damage caused by growth cracks, dirt, disease, rodents, insects, or mechanical or other means.

The beets shall have leaf stems which are free from damage by any cause, and which shall be cut back to not more than 4 inches in length.

Unless otherwise specified, the diameter of each beet shall be not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 5 percent of the

beets in any container may be smaller than the specified minimum diameter, and not more than 10 percent may be larger than any maximum diameter which may be specified in connection with the grade. In addition, not more than a total of 10 percent of the beets may not meet the requirement for length of leaf stems, provided that not more than 1 percent shall be permitted for beets having leaf stems over 5 inches in length. In addition, not more than 10 percent may have leaf stems which are damaged by any cause, and not more than 10 percent may fail to meet the remaining requirements of this grade but not more than one-tenth of this amount, or one percent, shall be allowed for soft rot.

Unclassified shall consist of beets which have not been classified in accordance with the foregoing grade. The term "unclassified" is not a grade within the meaning of these standards but is provided as a designation to show that no definite grade has been applied to the lot.

SIZE TERMS

The following terms are provided for describing the size of the beets in any lot on the basis of diameters: "Small" means less than 2 inches; "Medium" means 2 to 3 inches inclusive; "Large" means over 3 inches.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

As used in these standards:

"Firm" means that the beet is not soft, flabby, or shriveled.

"Fairly smooth" means that the appearance of the beet is not more than slightly injured by roughness or by the presence of secondary rootlets. Very slight roughness over the crown or very slight pitting caused

by the shedding of dead leaves shall not be considered as injury to the appearance.

"Fairly well shaped" means that the beet is not misshapen to such an extent as to materially injure its appearance.

"Soft rot" means any soft, mushy or leaky condition of the tissue.

"Damage" means any injury or defect which materially affects the appearance, edible, or shipping quality of the beet, or which cannot be removed without a loss of more than 5 percent of the total weight of the beet.

"Diameter" means the greatest dimension of the beet taken at right angles to the longitudinal axis.

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